

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 DHA-05  
PRS-01 ISO-00 /065 W  
-----055331 130143Z /61

R 120330Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 563

INFO AMEMBSSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, EFIN, PINR, PGOV, SE

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH SEYCHELLES REPRESENTATIVE TO IMF/IBRD  
MEETINGS

REF A) STATE 238067 B. VICTORIA 0558

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES DESK OFFICERS ASSISTANCE IN SCHEDULING  
STATE/DOD APPOINTMENTS AND SUPPORTING WASHINGTON VISIT OF  
PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR FINANCE GUY MOREL. ALSO APPRECIATE USEFUL  
INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTTEL A AND EXCELLENT SUGGESTION OF MOREL  
AS PARTIAL CU GRANTEE IN FY 78. FUNDING SHOULD NOT PRESENT SERIOUS  
OBSTACLE IN LIGHT OF FY 78 ALLOTMENT OF DOLS 15,000 (STATE 240136).

2. RE PARA 4 REFTTEL A, SEYCHELLES INDEPENDANCE CONSTITUTION WAS  
ABROGATED WITHOUT QUALIFICATION IN JUNE 6 SPEECH  
BY PRESIDENT RENE (VICTORIA 308). SUBSEQUENTLY, GOS DECIDED TO  
RETAIN SOME PROVISIONS DURING PRESENT PERIOD BEFORE NEW CONSTITUTION  
IS DRAFTED AND ADOPTED. WHILE MOREL WAS TECHNICALLY CORRECT WHEN  
HE STATED THAT PORTIONS OF OLD CONSTITUTION REMAIN IN FORCE,  
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE ON STATE SECURITY( VICTORIA 350) ENABLES PRESIDENT

AND SPECIFIED SUBORDINATES TO VIOLATE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS  
AT ANY TIME IN INTEREST OF STATE SECURITY.

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ALTHOUGH, UNTIL NOW, RENE AND OFFICIALS IN SECURITY  
SECTOR HAVE GENERALLY USED NEW POWERS WITH COMMENDABLE RESTRAINT AND  
DISCRETION, DETENTIONS AT TIME OF INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY  
AND CONTINUING STOP AND SEARCH OPERATIONS BY POLICE AND ARMY  
EFFECTIVELY VITIATE KEY ARTICLES. PRACTICAL EFFECT OF RENE'S  
ASSUMPTION OF "ALL

POWERS" OF  
GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENTIAL DECREES WHICH CAN NOT BE CHALLENGED  
AND VACANCY IN ESSENTIAL POST OF CHIEF JUSTICE ( LAST OCCUPANT  
OF THAT OFFICE WAS DEPORTED JUNE 5) IS RULE BY EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL  
MEANS.

3. IN RECENT CONVERSATION ATTORNEY GENERAL LOUSTEAU-LALANNE  
OFFERED OPINION THAT "SERIOUS DRAFTING" OF NEW CONSTITUTION  
WILL PROBABLY NOT BEGIN BEFORE SECOND HALF OF 1978 WHEN GOVERNMENT-  
SPONSORED COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS AND WORK OF CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL  
WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. NEITHER COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL NOR  
DETAILS ON ITS MANDATE HAVE YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.

4. SINCE NUMBER OF BASIC ARTICLES OF PRE JUNE 5  
CONSTITUTION REMAIN IN EFFECT AND WILL NOT BE TAMPERED WITH,  
SUGGEST BACKGROUND NOTES STATE INDEPENDANCE CONSTITUTION WAS  
PARTIALLY ABROGATED.  
MATTSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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